



**ENGINEERING OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 4, 2004 – 9:00 A.M.  
AERONAUTICS COMMISSION ROOM**

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*Present:*      L. Tibbits                      J. Friend                      J. Polasek  
                    B. O'Brien                      C. Roberts                      M. VanPortFleet  
                    J. D. Culp                      M. Chaput                      J. W. Reincke  
                    C. Bleech                      E. Burns

*Absent:*        T. Fudaly                      T. Anderson

*Guests:*       D. Calabrese                      M. Bott                      G. Mayes

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1.      Approval of the Minutes of the October 7, 2004, Meeting – L. Tibbits**

The minutes of the October 7, 2004, meeting were approved.

**2.      Traffic Recommendation Committee Membership (See June 3, 2004, Minutes, New Business, Item 2) – M. Bott**

The Traffic Recommendation Committee (TRC) was requested to review its structure and submit any recommendations for changes to EOC for approval. Besides the main committee, TRC has two affiliated subgroups, Barrier Advisory Committee and State/Industry Construction Zone Review Team. The chair of each group is a member of the TRC.

Two main issues were cited – the Engineer of Traffic and Safety is not a member of TRC and the current practice for appointing members is not clear. The membership rosters and the appointment schedules have been revised and were presented for approval. The Engineer of Traffic and Safety will be the TRC chair. Region members will be appointed by the Chief Operations Officer for a minimum of two years. Additional comments and suggestions were received.

**ACTION:**      The membership lists are approved subject to changes as discussed. The new TRC chair will distribute the final versions to EOC members.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1.      Revise Font Specification for Freeway Guide Signs – M. Bott**

Increased visibility and legibility to accommodate viewing distance and reaction time requirements for all drivers, and especially for elderly ones, can be accomplished by switching the font and spacing of our sign legends. Enough research has been conducted to clearly support the use of the Clearview font in achieving significant improvement in both of these major areas of concern. Mark gave an excellent visual demonstration and comparison of the Clearview font versus our standard Highway Gothic font. It underscored the practicality and sense behind the recommendation to use the new font on all freeway guide signs.

The recommendation is to use the Clearview font on freeway guide signs for FY 2006 on sign replacement projects and on new sign contracts. In order to accomplish this, we must:

- Submit a written request to FHWA to use Clearview.
- The E series sign standards must be revised to match federal standards.
- Purchase the Clearview font software modules for staff.
- Consultants and contractors must be informed of the change and given information on acquiring the resources.

**ACTION:** Approve the recommendation with the potential to expedite into the 2005 program where possible.

2. **Revise Reflective Sheeting Material Specifications for Overhead Guide Signs – M. Bott**

NOTE: This item is presented in conjunction with New Business, Item 1.

Along with the change to the Clearview font on freeway guide signs, visibility can be further enhanced by switching the reflective sheeting material from Type III High Intensity to Type IX Prismatic. Based on considerable research and use by other states, it is recommended we use Type IX sheeting as legend on a Type III background on all overhead guide signs for FY 2006. A concern was raised about ground mounted signs.

**ACTION:** Approve the recommendation, but include ground mounted signs as well. Implementation will coincide with the change in font for FY 2006 with the potential to expedite into the 2005 program (whenever we use Clearview, use Type IX prismatic sheeting).

3. **Maintenance Work Zone Traffic Control Guidelines – G. Mayes**

Public Act 315 of 2003 redefined work zone signing. The new law went into effect on April 8, 2004. The Maintenance Work Zone Traffic Control Guidelines have been revised, and were reviewed by TRC and the regions. Appendix A, *Guidelines for Truck Mounted Attenuators*, has been incorporated for use and reference by all maintenance forces working on MDOT projects.

**ACTION:** The guidelines are approved for statewide implementation.

(Signed Copy on File at C&T)

Jon W. Reincke, Secretary  
Engineering Operations Committee

JWR:kar

cc: G. J. Jeff  
K. Steudle  
L. Hank  
EOC Members  
Region Engineers  
TSC Managers  
Assoc. Region Engineers  
T. Kratofil  
M. DeLong  
B. Kohrman  
J. Shinn

S. Mortel  
D. Jackson  
W. Tansil  
D. Wresinski  
C. Libiran  
R. J. Lippert, Jr.  
T. L. Nelson  
T. Phillips  
K. Peters  
J. Ingle  
C&T Staff

J. Steele (FHWA)  
A. C. Milo (MRBA)  
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D. Hollingsworth (MCA)  
J. Becsey (MAPA)  
M. Newman (MAA)  
M. Nystrom (AUC)  
J. Murner (MRPA)  
R. Brenke (ACEC)